

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86 further comprising controlling a granularity at which the geographic location is disseminated based on notification setting information.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising permitting a recipient of geographic location to control the granularity of the geographic location displayed.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the granularity at which the geographic location is disseminated comprises one of a street address, a city, a metropolitan area, an area within a metropolitan area, a region of a country, or a country.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein controlling the granularity at which the geographic location is disseminated comprises doing so based on notification setting information that is associated with a participant list.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein controlling the granularity at which the geographic location is disseminated comprises doing so based on notification setting information that is associated with a category of communications identities on a participant list.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising accessing one of many participant lists, each of which identifies multiple communications identities designated by a user, wherein:

accessing notification setting information comprises doing so for one or more participant lists that identifies a temporal condition for notifying communications identities on a participant list such that the temporal condition includes at least one temporal period during which notification information is to be provided or withheld, and

controlling dissemination further comprises controlling dissemination of notification information relating to communications identities identified on the at least one of many participant lists.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein different temporal conditions are associated with different ones of the participant lists.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein determining whether the temporal condition is satisfied comprises doing so for at least one but less than all of the participant lists.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein controlling dissemination further comprises providing notification information.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein controlling dissemination further comprises restricting the provision of notification information.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising transmitting notification information between a mobile communications device capable of transmitting voice communications and an instant messaging system.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising storing notification setting information on the mobile communications device.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising storing notification setting information on the instant messaging system.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein notification setting information comprises notification information that is associated with one of multiple categories of notification information.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein notification setting information comprises multiple notification setting information components, each of which is associated with a hierarchy of notification categories.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein at least one of the multiple categories comprises a user-definable category.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein at least one of the multiple categories is associated with a participant list identifying multiple communications identities designated by a user.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising displaying an alert that indicates the notification setting information that is to be applied based on the temporal condition.

24. (Original) The method claim 23 further comprising prompting a user to modify the notification setting information that is to be applied based on the temporal condition.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein controlling dissemination of notification information comprises denying dissemination of notification information, the method further comprising:

detecting an incoming communication associated with a user corresponding to the notification information; and
alerting the user to the incoming communication.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the incoming communication comprises an attempt to determine the geographic location of the user.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the incoming communication comprises an instant message sent to the user.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising, when the temporal condition is satisfied such that availability of the user to communicate is hidden and the user indicates that a message is to be sent, displaying a prompt to alert the user that the availability of the user to communicate will be revealed when the message is sent.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the temporal condition applies to all of several participant lists, each participant list identifying multiple communications identities designated by a user.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the temporal condition applies to all individuals included in a participant list associated with the user.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the temporal condition applied to at least one individual included in a participant list associated with the user differs from a temporal condition applied to at least one other individual included in the participant list.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising:

accessing status information corresponding to availability of a communications identity included on a participant list that has multiple communications identities designed by a user, wherein:

accessing notification setting information comprises accessing notification setting information for one or more participant lists associated with the communications identity, the notification setting information indicating a temporal condition for notifying communication identities on one or more of the participant lists such that the condition includes a temporal period during which notification information is to be restricted, and

controlling the dissemination of notification information comprises, in response to a determination that the temporal condition is not satisfied, passively configuring the participant list to persistently conceal the status of the communications identity.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein persistently concealing the status of the communications identity comprises indicating that availability information for the communications identity is unknown.

34. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein persistently concealing the status of the communications identity comprises indicating that the communications identity is not available to communicate.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein persistently concealing the status of the communications identity comprises indicating that the communications identity is not logged onto an instant message system used by the communications identity when the communications identity is logged onto the instant message system.

36. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for providing notification information corresponding to a first communications identity, the method comprising:

accessing notification setting information stored in a computer storage medium that identifies a temporal condition including at least one temporal period during which notification

information is to be provided or withheld, wherein a beginning and an end of the at least one temporal period are specified in the notification setting information in advance of the beginning of the temporal period;

determining whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

accessing information indicating that the first communications identity associated with a first mobile device is associated with a second communications identity such that the first communications identity corresponds to a person and the second communications identity corresponds to the same person;

receiving geographical location information associated with the first mobile device;

accessing a participant list of an instant messaging system, the participant list identifying communications identities designated by a user that are associated with the second communications identity; and

controlling dissemination of notification information related to the first communications identity based on whether the temporal condition is satisfied by, at least, making available the geographical location information associated with the first mobile device to the communications identities of the participant list associated with the second communications identity conditioned on the temporal condition being satisfied.

37-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for providing notification information corresponding to a communications identity, the method comprising:

accessing notification setting information stored in a computer storage medium that identifies a temporal condition including at least one temporal period during which notification information is to be provided or withheld, wherein a beginning and an end of the at least one temporal period are specified in the notification setting information in advance of the beginning of the temporal period;

determining whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

controlling dissemination of notification information related to the communications identity based on whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

accessing delegation information associated with the communications identity, the delegation information including multiple categories of communications identities and, for at least one of the multiple categories, identifying notification information modifications to be controlled;

receiving, from a user identity associated with a category of the multiple categories, a proposed modification of notification setting information ~~regarding the notification setting information~~;

accessing delegation information associated with the category;

determining whether the user identity is permitted to perform the proposed modification based on the delegation information associated with the category, the determination being made after receiving the proposed modification; and

only permitting the proposed modification to the notification setting information when the user identity is permitted to perform the proposed modification.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39 wherein:

the multiple categories comprise multiple categories in which at least two categories of the multiple categories are arranged in a hierarchical relationship such that a lower category is related to a higher category,

delegation information associated with the higher category also is associated with the lower category,

the user identity is associated with the lower category, and

only permitting the modification comprises only permitting the proposed modification to the notification setting information when the user identity is permitted to perform the proposed modification based on a determination whether the user identity is permitted to perform the proposed modification based on the delegation information associated with the higher category.

41. (Original) The method of claim 39 wherein multiple categories comprise multiple categories that include a government category, a financier category, and a user category.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein multiple categories comprise multiple categories that include a financier category having a business enterprise and a user category having an employee.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein multiple categories comprise multiple categories that include a financier category having a parent and a user category having a child of the parent.

44. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program configured to, when executed, provide notification information corresponding to a communication identity, the medium ~~or signal~~ comprising one or more code segments configured to:

- access notification setting information that identifies a temporal condition including at least one temporal period during which notification information is to be provided or withheld, wherein the notification setting information defines a duration and specifies at least one of a beginning and an end of the duration;

- determine whether the temporal condition is satisfied; and

- access information indicating that the first communications identity associated with a first mobile device is associated with a second communications identity such that the first communications identity corresponds to a person and the second communications identity corresponds to the same person;

- receive geographical location information associated with the first mobile device;

- access a participant list of an instant messaging system, the participant list identifying communications identities designated by a user that are associated with the second communications identity; and

control dissemination of notification information related to the first communications identity based on whether the temporal condition is satisfied by, at least, making available the geographical location information associated with the first mobile device to the communications identities of the participant list associated with the second communications identity conditioned on the temporal condition being satisfied.

45. (Original) The medium of claim 44 wherein the notification information indicates whether the communications identity is available to communicate.

46. (Original) The medium of claim 45 wherein the notification information indicates whether the communications identity is logged on to a particular communications system.

47. (Original) The medium of claim 46 wherein the notification information indicates whether the communications identity is logged on to an instant messaging system.

48. (Original) The medium of claim 44 wherein the notification information indicates a geographic location of the communications identity.

49. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 53 wherein the one or more code segments are further configured to:

access one of many participant lists, each of which identifies multiple communications identities designated by a user,

access notification setting information for one or more participant lists that identifies a temporal condition for notifying communications identities on a participant list such that the temporal condition includes at least one temporal period during which notification information is to be provided or withheld, and

control dissemination of notification information relating to communications identities identified on the at least one of many participant lists.

50. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 53 wherein the one or more code segments are configured to transmit notification information between a mobile communications device capable of transmitting voice communications and an instant messaging system.

51. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 53 wherein notification setting information comprises notification information that is associated with one of multiple categories of notification information.

52. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 53 wherein the one or more code segments are further configured to:

access status information corresponding to availability of a communications identity included on a participant list that has multiple communications identities designed by the user,

access notification setting information for one or more participant lists associated with the communications identity, the notification information indicating a temporal condition for notifying communication identities on one or more of the participant lists such that the condition includes a temporal period during which notification information is to be restricted, and

passively configure the participant list to persistently conceal the status of the communications identity in response to a determination that the temporal condition is not satisfied.

53. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program configured to, when executed, provide notification information corresponding to a first communications identity, the medium comprising one or more code segments configured to:

access notification setting information that identifies a temporal condition including at least one temporal period during which notification information is to be provided or withheld, wherein a beginning and an end of the at least one temporal period are specified in the notification setting information in advance of the beginning of the temporal period;

determine whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

access information indicating that the first communications identity associated with a first mobile device is associated with a second communications identity such that the first communications identity corresponds to a person and the second communications identity corresponds to the same person;

receive geographical location information associated with the first mobile device;

access a participant list of an instant messaging system, the participant list identifying communications identities designated by a user that are associated with the second communications identity; and

control dissemination of notification information related to the first communications identity based on whether the temporal condition is satisfied by, at least, making available the geographical location information associated with the first mobile device to the communications identities of the participant list associated with the second communications identity conditioned on the temporal condition being satisfied.

54. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program configured to, when executed, provide notification information corresponding to a communications identity, the medium ~~or signal~~ comprising one or more code segments configured to:

access notification setting information that identifies a temporal condition including at least one temporal period during which notification information is to be provided or withheld, wherein a beginning and an end of the at least one temporal period are specified in the notification setting information in advance of the beginning of the temporal period;

determine whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

control dissemination of notification information related to the communications identity based on whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

access delegation information associated with the communications identity, the delegation information including multiple categories of communications identities and, for at least one of the multiple categories, identifying notification information modifications to be controlled;

receive, from a user identity associated with a category of the multiple categories, a proposed modification of notification setting information ~~regarding the notification setting information~~;

access delegation information associated with the category;

determine whether the user identity is permitted to perform the proposed modification based on the delegation information associated with the category, the determination being made after receiving the proposed modification; and

only permit the proposed modification to the notification setting information when the user identity is permitted to perform the proposed modification.

55. (Previously Presented) A computer-based system for providing notification information corresponding to a communication identity, the system configured to:

access notification setting information stored in a computer storage medium that identifies a temporal condition including at least one temporal period during which notification information is to be provided or withheld, wherein the notification setting information defines a duration and specifies at least one of a beginning and an end of the duration;

determine whether the temporal condition is satisfied; and

accessing information indicating that the first communications identity associated with a first mobile device is associated with a second communications identity such that the first communications identity corresponds to a person and the second communications identity corresponds to the same person;

receive geographical location information associated with the first mobile device;

access a participant list of an instant messaging system, the participant list identifying communications identities designated by a user that are associated with the second communications identity; and

control dissemination of notification information related to the first communications identity based on whether the temporal condition is satisfied by, at least, making available the geographical location information associated with the first mobile device to the communications

identities of the participant list associated with the second communications identity conditioned on the temporal condition being satisfied.

56. (Original) The system of claim 55 wherein the notification information indicates whether the communications identity is available to communicate.

57. (Original) The system of claim 56 wherein notification information indicates whether the communications identity is logged on to a particular communications system.

58. (Original) The system of claim 57 wherein the notification information indicates whether the communications identity is logged on to an instant messaging system.

59. (Original) The system of claim 55 wherein the notification information indicates a geographic location of the communications identity.

60. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64 further configured to:
access one of many participant lists, each participant list identifying multiple communications identities designated by a user;
access notification setting information comprises accessing notification setting information for one or more participant lists that identifies a temporal condition for notifying communications identities on a participation list such that the temporal condition includes at least one temporal period during which notification information is to be provided or withheld;
and
control dissemination further comprises controlling dissemination of notification information relating to communications identities identified on the at least one of many participant lists.

61. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64 further configured to transmit notification information between a mobile communications device capable of transmitting voice communications and an instant messaging system.

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64 wherein notification setting information comprises notification information that is associated with one of multiple categories of notification information.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64 further configured to:
access status information corresponding to availability of a communications identity included on a participant list that has multiple communications identities designed by the user, wherein:

access notification setting information comprises accessing notification setting information for one or more participant lists associated with the communications identity, the notification information indicating a temporal condition for notifying communication identities on one or more of the participant lists such that the condition includes a temporal period during which notification information is to be restricted, and

control the dissemination of notification information further comprises, in response to a determination that the temporal condition is not satisfied, passively configuring the participant list to persistently conceal the status of the communications identity.

64. (Previously Presented) A computer-based system for providing notification information corresponding to a first communications identity, the system configured to:

access notification setting information stored in a computer storage medium that identifies a temporal condition including at least one temporal period during which notification information is to be provided or withheld, wherein a beginning and an end of the at least one temporal period are specified in the notification setting information in advance of the beginning of the temporal period;

determine whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

access information indicating that the first communications identity associated with a first mobile device is associated with a second communications identity such that the first communications identity corresponds to a person and the second communications identity corresponds to the same person;

receive geographical location information associated with the first mobile device;

access a participant list of an instant messaging system, the participant list identifying communications identities designated by a user that are associated with the second communications identity; and

control dissemination of notification information relating to the first communications identity based on whether the temporal condition is satisfied by, at least, making available the geographical location information associated with the first mobile device to the communications identities of the participant list associated with the second communications identity conditioned on the temporal condition being satisfied.

65. (Currently Amended) A computer-based system for providing notification information corresponding to a communications identity, the system configured to:

access notification setting information stored in a computer storage medium that identifies a temporal condition including at least one temporal period during which notification information is to be provided or withheld, wherein a beginning and an end of the at least one temporal period are specified in the notification setting information in advance of the beginning of the temporal period;

determine whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

control dissemination of notification information relating to the communications identity based on whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

access delegation information associated with the communications identity, the delegation information including multiple categories of communications identities and, for at least one of the multiple categories, identifying notification information modifications to be controlled;

receive, from a user identity associated with a category of the multiple categories, a proposed modification of notification setting information ~~regarding the notification setting information;~~

access delegation information associated with the category;

determine whether the user identity is permitted to perform the proposed modification based on the delegation information associated with the category, the determination being made after receiving the proposed modification; and

only permit the proposed modification to the notification setting information when the user identity is permitted to perform the proposed modification.

66. (Previously Presented) A computer-based system for providing notification information corresponding to a communication identity, the system comprising:

means for accessing notification setting information stored in a computer storage medium that identifies a temporal condition including at least one temporal period during which notification information is to be provided or withheld, wherein a beginning and an end of the at least one temporal period are specified in the notification setting information in advance of the beginning of the temporal period;

means for determining whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

means for accessing information indicating that the first communications identity associated with a first mobile device is associated with a second communications identity such that the first communications identity corresponds to a person and the second communications identity corresponds to the same person;

means for receiving geographical location information associated with the first mobile device;

means for accessing a participant list of an instant messaging system, the participant list identifying communications identities designated by a user that are associated with the second communications identity; and

means for controlling dissemination of notification information related to the first communications identity based on whether the temporal condition is satisfied by making

available the geographical location information associated with the first mobile device to the communications identities of the participant list associated with the second communications identity conditioned on the temporal condition being satisfied.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the end of the at least one temporal period identifies a specific time at which the temporal period ends.

68. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 53 wherein the end of the at least one temporal period identifies a specific time at which the temporal period ends.

69. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64 wherein the end of the at least one temporal period identifies a specific time at which the temporal period ends.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein making available the geographical location information associated with the first mobile device comprises providing the geographical location information associated with the first mobile device to the communications identities of the participant list associated with the second communications identity.

71. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 53 wherein the one or more code segments are further configured to provide the geographical location information associated with the first mobile device to the communications identities of the participant list associated with the second communications identity.

72. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64 further configured to provide the geographical location information associated with the first mobile device to the communications identities of the participant list associated with the second communications identity.

73. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method, for providing notification information corresponding to a communication identity, the method comprising:

accessing notification setting information stored in a computer storage medium that identifies a temporal condition including at least one temporal period during which notification information is to be provided or withheld, wherein the notification setting information defines a duration and specifies at least one of a beginning and an end of the duration;

determining whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

accessing information indicating that the first communications identity associated with a first mobile device is associated with a second communications identity such that the first communications identity corresponds to a person and the second communications identity corresponds to the same person;

receiving geographical location information associated with the first mobile device;

accessing a participant list of an instant messaging system, the participant list identifying communications identities designated by a user that are associated with the second communications identity; and

controlling dissemination of notification information related to the first communications identity based on whether the temporal condition is satisfied by, at least, making available the geographical location information associated with the first mobile device to the communications identities of the participant list associated with the second communications identity conditioned on the temporal condition being satisfied.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73 wherein the notification setting information comprises an indication of a repeating period.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74 wherein the repeating period comprises once a month.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73 further comprising determining an end of the duration based on the beginning of the duration.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73 further comprising determining a beginning of the duration based on the end of the duration.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73 wherein the beginning of the duration comprises a day and a time.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73 wherein the beginning of the duration comprises a day and an abstract indication of time.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73 wherein the beginning of the duration is specified in advance of the beginning of the temporal period.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73 wherein the notification setting information specifies a beginning of the duration.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73 wherein the notification setting information specifies an end of the duration.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the notification information indicates whether the first communications identity is available to communicate.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83 wherein the notification information indicates whether the first communications identity is logged on to a particular communications system.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 84 wherein the notification information indicates whether the first communications identity is logged on to an instant messaging system.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the notification information indicates a geographic location of the first communications identity.

87. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 53 wherein the notification information indicates whether the first communications identity is available to communicate.

88. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 87 wherein the notification information indicates whether the first communications identity is logged on to a particular communications system.

89. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 88 wherein the notification information indicates whether the first communications identity is logged on to an instant messaging system.

90. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 53 wherein the notification information indicates a geographic location of the first communications identity.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the notification information indicates whether the communications identity is available to communicate.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 91 wherein the notification information indicates whether the communications identity is logged on to a particular communications system.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 92 wherein the notification information indicates whether the communications identity is logged on to an instant messaging system.

94. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the notification information indicates a geographic location of the communications identity.

95. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 54 wherein the notification information indicates whether the communications identity is available to communicate.

96. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 95 wherein the notification information indicates whether the communications identity is logged on to a particular communications system.

97. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 54 wherein the notification information indicates a geographic location of the communications identity.

98. (New) A computer-implemented system for providing notification information corresponding to a communications identity, the system comprising:

means for accessing notification setting information stored in a computer storage medium that identifies a temporal condition including at least one temporal period during which notification information is to be provided or withheld, wherein the notification setting information defines a duration and specifies at least one of a beginning and an end of the duration;

means for determining whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

means for accessing information indicating that the first communications identity associated with a first mobile device is associated with a second communications identity such that the first communications identity corresponds to a person and the second communications identity corresponds to the same person;

means for receiving geographical location information associated with the first mobile device;

means for accessing a participant list of an instant messaging system, the participant list identifying communications identities designated by a user that are associated with the second communications identity; and

means for controlling dissemination of notification information related to the first communications identity based on whether the temporal condition is satisfied by, at least,

making available the geographical location information associated with the first mobile device to the communications identities of the participant list associated with the second communications identity conditioned on the temporal condition being satisfied.

99. (New) A computer-based system for providing notification information corresponding to a communication identity, the system configured to:

- access notification setting information stored in a computer storage medium that identifies a temporal condition including at least one temporal period during which notification information is to be provided or withheld, wherein the notification setting information defines a duration and specifies at least one of a beginning and an end of the duration;

- determine whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

- access information indicating that the first communications identity associated with a first mobile device is associated with a second communications identity such that the first communications identity corresponds to a person and the second communications identity corresponds to the same person;

- receive geographical location information associated with the first mobile device;

- access a participant list of an instant messaging system, the participant list identifying communications identities designated by a user that are associated with the second communications identity; and

- control dissemination of notification information related to the first communications identity based on whether the temporal condition is satisfied by, at least, making available the geographical location information associated with the first mobile device to the communications identities of the participant list associated with the second communications identity conditioned on the temporal condition being satisfied.

100. (New) The method of claim 99 wherein the notification setting information comprises an indication of a repeating period.

101. (New) The method of claim 100 wherein the repeating period comprises once a month.

102. (New) The method of claim 99 further comprising determining an end of the duration based on the beginning of the duration.

103. (New) The method of claim 99 further comprising determining a beginning of the duration based on the end of the duration.

104. (New) The method of claim 99 wherein the beginning of the duration comprises a day and a time.

105. (New) The method of claim 99 wherein the beginning of the duration comprises a day and an abstract indication of time.

106. (New) The method of claim 99 wherein the beginning of the duration is specified in advance of the beginning of the temporal period.

107. (New) The method of claim 99 wherein the notification setting information specifies a beginning of the duration.

108. (New) The method of claim 99 wherein the notification setting information specifies an end of the duration.

109. (New) A computer-based system for providing notification information corresponding to a communication identity, the system comprising:

means for accessing notification setting information stored in a computer storage medium that identifies a temporal condition including at least one temporal period during which notification information is to be provided or withheld, wherein a beginning and an end of the at

least one temporal period are specified in the notification setting information in advance of the beginning of the temporal period;

means for determining whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

means for controlling dissemination of notification information related to the communications identity based on whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

means for accessing delegation information associated with the communications identity, the delegation information including multiple categories of communications identities and, for at least one of the multiple categories, identifying notification information modifications to be controlled;

means for receiving, from a user identity associated with a category of the multiple categories, a proposed modification of notification setting information;

means for accessing delegation information associated with the category;

means for determining whether the user identity is permitted to perform the proposed modification based on the delegation information associated with the category, the determination being made after receiving the proposed modification; and

means for only permitting the proposed modification to the notification setting information when the user identity is permitted to perform the proposed modification.

110. (New) A computer-implemented method for providing notification information corresponding to a communications identity, the method comprising:

accessing notification setting information stored in a computer storage medium that identifies a temporal condition including at least one temporal period during which notification information is to be provided or withheld, wherein a beginning and an end of the at least one temporal period are specified in the notification setting information in advance of the beginning of the temporal period;

determining whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

controlling dissemination of notification information related to the communications identity based on whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

accessing delegation information associated with the communications identity, the delegation information including multiple categories of communications identities and, for at least one of the multiple categories, identifying notification information modifications to be controlled, wherein:

the multiple categories comprise multiple categories in which at least two categories of the multiple categories are arranged in a hierarchical relationship such that a lower category is related to a higher category,

delegation information associated with the higher category also is associated with the lower category,

the user identity is associated with the lower category, and

only permitting the modification comprises only permitting the modification to the notification setting information when the user identity is permitted to perform the modification based on a determination whether the user identity is permitted to perform the modification based on the delegation information associated with the higher category;

receiving, from a user identity associated with a category of the multiple categories, a modification of notification information regarding the notification setting information;

accessing delegation information associated with the category;

determining whether the user identity is permitted to perform the modification based on the delegation information associated with the category; and

only permitting the modification to the notification setting information when the user identity is permitted to perform the modification.

111. (New) A computer-readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program configured to, when executed, provide notification information corresponding to a communications identity, the medium comprising one or more code segments configured to:

access notification setting information that identifies a temporal condition including at least one temporal period during which notification information is to be provided or withheld, wherein a beginning and an end of the at least one temporal period are specified in the notification setting information in advance of the beginning of the temporal period;

determine whether the temporal condition is satisfied;
control dissemination of notification information related to the communications identity based on whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

access delegation information associated with the communications identity, the delegation information including multiple categories of communications identities and, for at least one of the multiple categories, identifying notification information modifications to be controlled, wherein:

the multiple categories comprise multiple categories in which at least two categories of the multiple categories are arranged in a hierarchical relationship such that a lower category is related to a higher category,

delegation information associated with the higher category also is associated with the lower category,

the user identity is associated with the lower category, and

only permitting the modification comprises only permitting the modification to the notification setting information when the user identity is permitted to perform the modification based on a determination whether the user identity is permitted to perform the modification based on the delegation information associated with the higher category;

receive, from a user identity associated with a category of the multiple categories, a modification of notification information regarding the notification setting information;

access delegation information associated with the category;

determine whether the user identity is permitted to perform the modification based on the delegation information associated with the category; and

only permit the modification to the notification setting information when the user identity is permitted to perform the modification.

112. (New) A computer-based system for providing notification information corresponding to a communications identity, the system configured to:

access notification setting information stored in a computer storage medium that identifies a temporal condition including at least one temporal period during which notification

information is to be provided or withheld, wherein a beginning and an end of the at least one temporal period are specified in the notification setting information in advance of the beginning of the temporal period;

- determine whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

- control dissemination of notification information related to the communications identity based on whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

- access delegation information associated with the communications identity, the delegation information including multiple categories of communications identities and, for at least one of the multiple categories, identifying notification information modifications to be controlled, wherein:

 - the multiple categories comprise multiple categories in which at least two categories of the multiple categories are arranged in a hierarchical relationship such that a lower category is related to a higher category,

 - delegation information associated with the higher category also is associated with the lower category,

 - the user identity is associated with the lower category, and

 - only permitting the modification comprises only permitting the modification to the notification setting information when the user identity is permitted to perform the modification based on a determination whether the user identity is permitted to perform the modification based on the delegation information associated with the higher category;

 - receive, from a user identity associated with a category of the multiple categories, a modification of notification information regarding the notification setting information;

 - access delegation information associated with the category;

 - determine whether the user identity is permitted to perform the modification based on the delegation information associated with the category; and

 - only permit the modification to the notification setting information when the user identity is permitted to perform the modification.

113. (New) A computer-implemented system for providing notification information corresponding to a communications identity, the system comprising:

- means for accessing notification setting information stored in a computer storage medium that identifies a temporal condition including at least one temporal period during which notification information is to be provided or withheld, wherein a beginning and an end of the at least one temporal period are specified in the notification setting information in advance of the beginning of the temporal period;

- means for determining whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

- means for controlling dissemination of notification information related to the communications identity based on whether the temporal condition is satisfied;

- means for accessing delegation information associated with the communications identity, the delegation information including multiple categories of communications identities and, for at least one of the multiple categories, identifying notification information modifications to be controlled, wherein:

- the multiple categories comprise multiple categories in which at least two categories of the multiple categories are arranged in a hierarchical relationship such that a lower category is related to a higher category,

- delegation information associated with the higher category also is associated with the lower category,

- the user identity is associated with the lower category, and

- only permitting the modification comprises only permitting the modification to the notification setting information when the user identity is permitted to perform the modification based on a determination whether the user identity is permitted to perform the modification based on the delegation information associated with the higher category;

- means for receiving, from a user identity associated with a category of the multiple categories, a modification of notification information regarding the notification setting information;

- means for accessing delegation information associated with the category;

means for determining whether the user identity is permitted to perform the modification based on the delegation information associated with the category; and

means for only permitting the modification to the notification setting information when the user identity is permitted to perform the modification.